Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 19-37 and add new claims 38-60, without prejudice, as shown in the listing of claims below. This listing of claims is a complete listing of all claims ever presented in the application and replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-37 (Canceled):

Claim 38 (New): A process for preparing a three-dimensional crosslinker-free composition, said process comprising:

(a) providing an aqueous mixture consisting essentially of a polysaccharide biopolymer, wherein the aqueous mixture has a viscosity of from 1,000 mPas to 100,000 mPas and a pH value of from 1 to 12;

(b) adjusting the pH of the aqueous mixture up or down to a value of about 4.0 to 8.5 to form a crosslinker-free biopolymer composition comprised of physically interlinked fibers; and

(c) dewatering the crosslinker-free biopolymer composition to form a crosslinker-free three-dimensional structure comprised of physically interlinked fibers.

Claim 39 (New): The process according to claim 38, wherein the aqueous mixture is present in a state selected from the group consisting of solutions and homogenous suspensions.

Claim 40 (New): The process according to claim 38, wherein the polysaccharide biopolymer is present in an amount of from 0.1 to 15% by weight, based on the aqueous mixture.

Claim 41 (New): The process according to claim 38, wherein the aqueous mixture has a pH value of from 4 to 10.

Claim 42 (New): The process according to claim 38, wherein the aqueous mixture has a viscosity of from 10,000 mPas to 40,000 mPas.

Claim 43 (New): The process according to claim 38, wherein the pH is adjusted by the addition of an aqueous solution selected from the group consisting of aqueous solutions of hydrogen carbonates, carbonates, hydrogen phosphates, hydroxides of alkali metals, alkaline earth metals, ammonia and organic nitrogen bases, and combinations thereof.

Claim 44 (New): The process according to claim 38, wherein the pH is adjusted by the addition of an aqueous solution of sodium hydrogen carbonate.

Claim 45 (New): The process according to claim 38, wherein the pH is adjusted by the addition of an aqueous solution selected from the group consisting of aqueous solutions of mineral acids, organic carboxylic acids, and combinations thereof.

Claim 46 (New): The process according to claim 38, further comprising, after adjusting the pH in step (b), allowing the crosslinker-free biopolymer composition to stand, without mixing, for 10 minutes to 10 hours.

Claim 47 (New): The process according to claim 38, wherein a freezing step precedes the dewatering step.

Claim 48 (New): The process according to claim 38, further comprising combining 5 to 10% by weight of one or more auxiliaries or additives with the aqueous mixture prior to dewatering.

Claim 49 (New): A process for preparing a three-dimensional crosslinker-free composition, said process comprising:

(a) providing an aqueous mixture consisting essentially of 0.1 to 15% by weight of a polysaccharide biopolymer and, optionally, 5 to 10% by weight of additives selected from the group consisting of polyols, lignin, polyose, pectin, cellulose and synthetic polyester and polyamide fibers, wherein the aqueous mixture has a viscosity of from 10,000 mPas to 40,000 mPas and a pH value of from 1 to 12;

(b) without the addition of further additives, adjusting the pH of the aqueous mixture up or down to a value of about 4.0 to 8.5 to form a crosslinker-free biopolymer composition comprised of physically interlinked fibers; and

(c) dewatering the crosslinker-free biopolymer composition to form a crosslinker-free three-dimensional structure comprised of physically interlinked fibers.

Claim 50 (New): A process according to claim 49, wherein the pH is adjusted by the addition of an aqueous solution selected from the group consisting of aqueous solutions of hydrogen carbonates, carbonates, hydrogen phosphates, hydroxides of alkali metals, alkaline earth metals, ammonia and organic nitrogen bases, and combinations thereof.

Claim 51 (New): A process according to claim 49, wherein the pH is adjusted by the addition of an aqueous solution selected from the group consisting of aqueous solutions of mineral acids, organic carboxylic acids, and combinations thereof.

Claim 52 (New): A process according to claim 49, further comprising, after adjusting the pH in step (b), allowing the crosslinker-free biopolymer composition to stand, without mixing, for 10 minutes to 10 hours.

Claim 53 (New): A process for preparing a crosslinker-free composition, said process comprising:

(a) providing an aqueous mixture consisting essentially of a polysaccharide biopolymer, wherein the aqueous mixture has a viscosity of from 1,000 mPas to 100,000 mPas and a pH value of from 1 to 12;

(b) adjusting the pH of the aqueous mixture up or down to a value of about 4.0 to 8.5 to form a crosslinker-free biopolymer composition comprised of physically interlinked fibers;

(c) allowing the crosslinker-free biopolymer composition to stand, without mixing, for 10 minutes to 10 hours, and

(d) dewatering the crosslinker-free biopolymer composition to form a crosslinker-free three-dimensional structure.

Claim 54 (New): The process according to claim 53, further comprising adding 5 to 10% by weight of additives selected from the group consisting of polyols, lignin, polyose, pectin, cellulose and synthetic polyester and polyamide fibers and adjusting the viscosity to from 10,000 mPas to 40,000 mPas.

Claim 55 (New): The process according to claim 53, further comprising a step of freezing prior to the dewatering of step (d).

Claim 56 (New): A three dimensional crosslinker-free, biopolymer composition prepared by the process according to claim 38.

Claim 57 (New): A crosslinker-free, biopolymer composition prepared by the process according to claim 52.

Claim 58 (New): A medicament or medical product comprising a crosslinker-free, biopolymer composition prepared by the process according to claim 53.

Claim 59 (New): A cosmetic preparation comprising a three-dimensional crosslinker-free, biopolymer composition prepared by the process according to claim 53.

Claim 60 (New): A food additive comprising a crosslinker-free, biopolymer composition prepared by the process according to claim 53.